

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 01109 170735Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 OES-07 /072 W
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R 161435Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6555
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV BY RW CG
SUBJ: CEPGL MEETINGS, WEEK OF SEPT 5

1. THE ANNUAL SUMMIT MEETING OF MEMBER STATES OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF COUNTRIES OF GREAT LAKES (CEPGL), ZAIRE, RWANDA AND BURUNDI, TOOK PLACE IN BUJUMBURA, SEPTEMBER 8, 9. PRESIDENTS MOBUTU, HABYARIMANA AND BAGAZA REPRESENTED THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES. THE SUMMIT WAS PRECEDED BY COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS (ZAIRE REPRESENTED BY STATE PLANNING COMMISSIONER MULAMBA) WHICH PREPARED THE DOCUMENTS SIGNED BY CHIEFS OF STATES.

2. THIS WAS FIRST HEADS OF STATE MEETING OF COMMUNITY WHICH WAS FORMED IN SEPT 1976. PURPOSE WAS TO DRAW UP CONCRETE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARTER. THE TEXTS ADOPTED BY CHIEFS OF STATES INCLUDED: RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR CHIEFS OF STATE CONFERENCES, COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR 1977 AND 1978, FINANCIAL PROCEDURES FOR THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETINGS AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMANENT SECRETARIAT.

3. THE THREE PRESIDENTS ALSO INITIATED AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER INSTITUTIONALIZING VARIOUS TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS, ESTABLISHING AN ARBITRATION COMMISSION AND AN ACCORD CREATING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BANK. IN THE AREA OF TRANSPORT, THE PRESIDENTS STATED THE LIBERATION OF THE

GREAT LAKES REGION FROM ITS PRESENT ENSLAVEMENT (SIC) AS AN IMPERIOUS NECESSITY. THEY ALSO AGREED TO PROMOTE REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, SPECIFICALLY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF RUZIZI RIVER VALLEY, EXPLOITATION OF METHANE GAS IN LAKE KIVU AND OF FISH RESOURCES OF LAKE TANGANYIKA. THEY CHARGED PERMANENT SECRETARIAT TO DRAW UP ASAP AONCRETE PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH FREE CIRCULATION OF GOODS, PEOPLE AND PAYMENTS WITHIN COMMUNITY.

4. MEETINGS WERE MARKED BY WARM FRIENDSHIP AMONG DELEGATIONS AND PRESIDENTS ALTHOUGH MOBUTU SEEMED VERY TIRED.

5. COMMENT: ELABORATE SUMMIT CEREMONIES WERE OBVIOUSLY TRIUMPH FOR BAGAZA DOMESTICALLY, AND IN HIS TWO PUBLIC SPEECHES HE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER CONCRETE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY AND COOPERATION AMONG THREE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. HE WAS THE ONLY CHIEF OF STATE TO MAKE PUBLIC ADDRESS.

6. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE MEET WITH HIGH-RANKING RWANDAN OR BURUNDIAN OFFICIALS ON CONFERENCE BU ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR STATES FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT BANK HAVE YET TO BE FOUND. INCLUSION OF CLAUSE CONCERNING GREAT LAKES COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS REFLECTS ZAIRIAN HOPES THAT ONCE FINANCED ROAD BETWEEN BUKAVU AND KISANGANI COMPLETED COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL USE CONGO RIVER OUTLET AS ALTERNATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIVE TO KIGOMA-DAR ES SALAAM ROUTE.

7. ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT VERY ENCOURAGED BY CONCRETE PROGRESS MADE AT MEETINGS. COMPETENT PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO SECRETARIAT AND MEMBERS HAVE AGREED TO BUDGET. GOZ ACCEPTS BURUNDIAN ARGUMENT THAT BURUNDI-RWANDA-TANZANIA AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP KAGERA BASIN IS SPECIAL AGREEMENT THAT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH CEPGL. ACCORDING AMBASSADOR, BIGGEST BARRIER TO CUSTOMS UNION IS JUSTIFIED RWANDAN AND BURUNDIAN FEARS THAT KIVU WOULD ABSORB CONSUMER PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI. BEFORE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN THIS DIRECTION, GOZ WILL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO STABILIZE SUPPLIES TO KIVU SO THAT ORDERLY TRANSITION CAN BE MADE.

8. EMBASSY POUCHING VARIOUS DOCUMENTS ACTION ADDRESSEES. GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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